

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

and the

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA

**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'CUESTA' CEANOOTHUS**

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and the California Agricultural Experiment Station announce the naming and release of 'Cuesta' Ceanothus, Ceanothus X flexilis McMin. It was developed by the Soil Conservation Service, USDA, and released in cooperation with the California Agricultural Experiment Station, University of California, Davis, California.

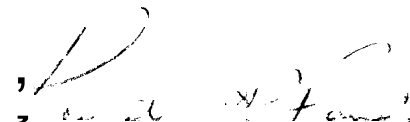
'Cuesta' Ceanothus was collected from a native stand near the Grass Valley airport, Nevada County, California by George Edmondson, SCS on July 1, 1974. Stem cuttings were collected from mature plants on this site and used to grow container plants for experimental plantings in the Sierra Nevada foothills. It was initially selected for its possible use on CALTRANS revegetation projects and compared to about 60 different species of shrubs in the Sierra Nevada foothills. It showed superior performance in establishment, maintenance and ornamental value.

'Cuesta' is a native, evergreen, semi-erect shrub that grows 0.6 to 1.2 m (2 to 4 feet) high and spreads to 0.6 to 2.4 m (2 to 8 feet) wide. It is a natural cross between buckbrush, Ceanothus cuneatus and squawcarpet, C. prostratus. Leaves are opposite and flowering period is April and May. Flower clusters are small with white to bluish, umbellate flowers.

'Cuesta' was developed for use as a ground cover that provides erosion control, low maintenance and ornamental value for roadslopes and landscaping slopes around rural and mountain homes. It is adapted to the Sierra Nevada and Coast Range up to 6,000 feet on silt loam to coarse sandy loam soils that are well-drained and annual precipitation is 30 inches or more. Plants can be irrigated, but need good drainage for optimum growth.

'Cuesta', being a hybrid cross, does not produce seed. Foundation and Certified planting stock will be collected from a Foundation block located on CALTRANS property along State Highway 20 near Penn Valley, Nevada County, California. Certified cutting blocks can be established from this Foundation block. Foundation planting stock will be

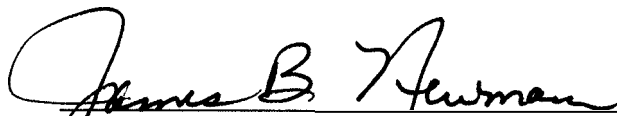
maintained and distributed by the Lockeford Plant Materials Center, Lockeford, California and the Foundation Seed and Plant Materials Service, University of California, Davis, California.

  
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DIRECTOR  
California Agricultural Experiment Station

9/20/91  
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Date

  
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CALIFORNIA STATE CONSERVATIONIST  
Soil Conservation Service

10/4/91  
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Date

  
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DIRECTOR  
Ecological Sciences Division  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Soil Conservation Service  
Washington, D.C.

10-22-91  
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